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-----0B44DB 050120Z /38

O 050105Z FEB 92
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035004

FOLLOWING CARACAS 01096 DATED FEB 04 SENT ACTION SECSTATE,
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS. PANAMA, WHITEHOUSE AND INFO TO
ARA COLLECTIVE IS BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.
QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 01096

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, CASC, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED COUP, MESSAGE NO 3, 0420, 2/4/92

REF: CARACAS 01095 AND PREVIOUS, NOTAL

1. A COUP ATTEMPT REMAINS IN PROGRESS. CAP IS VERY MUCH
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IN EVIDENCE: TOUGH AND UNBENDING, RALLYING THE NATION.
OUR MANY CONTACTS ARE GENERALLY PUTTING AN OPTIMISTIC SPIN
ON PROSPECTS. CONFIRMED REBELS APPEAR TO BE CONFINED TO
PERHAPS AS LITTLE AS THREE BATTALIONS. BUT THE LOYALTY OF
REMAINING UNITS IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AND THE SITUATION
REMAIN DANGEROUS. SPORADIC (AND OCCASIONALLY FAIRLY
HEAVY) LIGHT WEAPONS FIRE HAS BEEN CLEARLY AUDIBLE AT THE
EMBASSY AND IN SEVERAL OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE AMERICANS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2008 200503656

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DWELL, SINCE THE REBELLION BEGAN.

2. EMBASSY HAS RELEASED TO THE MEDIA LOCALLY (AND EMBASSY BOGOTA IS RELEASING THERE) AFTER TELEPHONE COORDINATION WITH WASHINGTON AND BOGOTA, THE FOLLOWING DOS STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY:

BEGIN TEXT

THE UNITED STATES STANDS IN COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN THEIR DEFENSE OF VENEZUELA'S CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY. WE CONDEMN AND REJECT ANY VIOLENT ASSAULT ON THAT DEMOCRACY. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS HEMISPHERE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALSO STAND UNITED IN FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ.

END TEXT

3. FOLLOWING TELEPHONE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND A/S ARONSON, EMBASSY IS ALSO INFORMING AND STRESSING TO LOCAL MEDIA, THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAS SPOKEN
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WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND HAS EXPRESSED "FULL SUPPORT."

4. FOLLOWING AN EAC MEETING AT 0300, EMBASSY MADE THE DECISION TO ACTIVATE THE WARDEN SYSTEM. A STATEMENT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

DURING THE NIGHT OF 3-4 FEBRUARY, THERE WAS REBEL MILITARY ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS IN CARACAS AND MARACAIBO. THE SITUATION IS UNCLEAR. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMERICANS ARE ADVISED TO REMAIN INDOORS UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES. THE AMERICAN SCHOOLS IN CARACAS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO REMAIN CLOSED FEBRUARY 4. AMERICANS SHOULD MONITOR LOCAL RADIO AND TV FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

END TEXT.

5. CONSULATE MARACAIBO TELEPHONED ABOUT 0315 TO SAY THAT FIGHTING WAS TAKING PLACE. ARMY TROOPS ARE ATTACKING A LOCAL NATIONAL GUARD UNIT.

6. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY DATT, NAVY

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HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY A SMALL GROUP OF ARMY REBELS, WHO MADE PRISONERS OF THE NAVY PERSONNEL THERE.

7. EMBASSY IS PICKING UP NUMEROUS REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE CENTER OF CARACAS. FEW ARE FROM DIRECT WITNESSES. ACCORDING TO THESE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, TROOPS MAY HAVE CAPTURED THE CONGRESS BUILDING AND THE SUPREME COURT.

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8. TELEVISION CHANNEL 4 RE-BROADCAST AT ABOUT 15 MINUTE INTERVALS THE SPEECH ORIGINALLY MADE BY PRESIDENT PEREZ AROUND 0200. ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT HAVE BEEN BROADCAST BY AD PARTY PRESIDENT HUBERTO CELLI AND AD ELDER STATESMAN LUIS PINERUA.

9. A MILGP OFFICER RECEIVED INFORMATION AT 0400 THAT REBEL-CONTROLLED TANKS WERE PATROLLING THE STREETS OF MARACAY. THE SAME INFORMANT INDICATED THAT REBEL FORCES IN MARACAIBO WERE BEING LED BY AN ARMY GENERAL OFFICER. (CONSULATE MARACAIBO CANNOT CONFIRM.) SKOL
UNQUOTE BAKER

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